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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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INFECTIOUS JAUNDICE.

The issue of the Public Health Reports of February 12 contained a report from Dr. L. J. Richards regarding an outbreak of infectious jaundice at Elizabeth, N. J.

Since then Dr. Youngman, health officer of Williamsport, Pa., has reported that during November and December, 1914, there were in Williamsport probably a hundred or more cases of this disease.

Dr. Edge has also reported that there was an outbreak in Stevens County, Ga., beginning last November.

CONTROL OF MALARIA.

OILING AS AN ANTIMOSQUITO MEASURE.

By J. A. A. LE PRINCE, Sanitary Engineer United States Public Health Service

Oiling of water surfaces as an antimalaria measure should be supplementary to proper drainage. When funds are not available for drainage, mosquito propagation can be largely controlled by oiling.

The object to be attained in using petroleum or other oils is to destroy larvæ of mosquitoes. To attain this, the surface of the water must be completely and continuously covered with a film of oil.

The effects thus produced in preventing mosquito breeding are:

1. Where mosquito larvæ are present, such larvæ can not penetrate the oil film with their breathing tube, and so drown and die.
2. Mosquitoes do not lay eggs on the oiled surface of water.

The larvæ of the malaria-conveying species of mosquitoes rest and feed in a horizontal position at the water surface. They are more easily destroyed in nature by the application of oils or larvacide than are larvæ of most other mosquitoes.

Grades of Oil.

There are many grades of oil on the market that will serve for mosquito destruction, ranging from the very light oils such as kerosene, to the heavier oils, known as crude oil.